

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ▼

HUMAN RESOURCES ENTERPRISE

CHIEF RISK OFFICER

DEFINITION

Measures and monitors various types of investment risks in the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS), oversees the selection and use of various quantitative risk models, and assists the Chief Investment Officer and investment staff in analyzing and managing investment risks; performs related work as required.

The Work Examples and Competencies listed are for illustrative purposes only and not intended to be the primary basis for position classification decisions.

WORK EXAMPLES

Measures and monitors various types of investment risks in the IPERS investment portfolio.

Communicates risk information to Investment Board and staff members.

Creates in-house analytical tools and/or uses off-the-shelf analytical software to measure and monitor various investment risks and warns Board and staff when risk levels are reaching or have exceeded policy limits.

Evaluates and recommends different types of quantitative and analytical models for the purpose of measuring and monitoring investment risks within the investment portfolio.

Maintains cutting-edge knowledge of best practices for managing investment risks.

Builds a risk-focused culture at IPERS by promoting risk management dialogue among all investment team members and by maintaining and improving a comprehensive risk management programs at IPERS.

Leads the development and review of IPERS' risk management policies; plays a key role in investment policy discussions, ensuring that the risk management perspective is brought to all investment strategy and portfolio manager decisions.

Identifies and implements the best available tools for all key risk objectives, including investment strategy risk, downside risk, active risk, liquidity, leverage, counterparty, and other measures relevant to identifying and mitigating unintended and/or unmanaged risk.

Serves as the risk management liaison between the Investment Board and IPERS staff, providing timely reports and presentations to communicate risk information and where risk levels are versus policy limits; responsible for alerting the IPERS investment Board and chief executive officer if risk level exceeds limits.

Works collaboratively with the chief investment officer and other investment staff to assist them in evaluating various risks within specific asset classes, strategies, or investment manager styles; works with chief investment officer to develop and executive risk hedging or risk mitigation strategies.

Participates in the periodic meetings of the IPERS Investment Board and provides advice to the Board on various topics.

COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

Advanced knowledge of mathematics, statistics, quantitative analysis, and factor analysis and understanding how factor models work and the limitations of such models.

Advanced knowledge of the characteristics of most forms of investments, including stocks, bonds, real estate, private equity, and financial derivatives (such as futures, swaps, options, etc.).

Knowledge of stock and bond portfolio management theories.

Knowledge of the economic factors that affect security prices, interest rates, and inflation, as well as how these factors are measured and evaluated.

Knowledge of key quantitative risk metrics such as variance, standard deviation, value at risk, etc.

Knowledge of and experience utilizing off-the-shelf risk analytical software such as Barra, Aladdin, Northfield, etc.

Ability to create custom risk models.

Ability to travel occasionally for meetings with consultants and investment managers or to attend continuing education conferences or events.

Display excellent oral and written communication skills, with the ability to communicate complex risk information to constituents and Board members that may have varying degrees of financial experience and knowledge.

Displays high standards of ethical conduct. Refrains from dishonest behavior.

Works and communicates with all clients and customers providing quality professional service.

Displays a high level of initiative, effort, attention to detail, and commitment by completing assignments efficiently with minimal supervision.

Follows policy, cooperates with supervisors, and aligns behavior with the goals of the organization.

Fosters and facilitates cooperation, pride, trust, group identity, and team spirit throughout the organization.

Exchanges information with individuals or groups effectively by listening and responding appropriately.

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE, AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, Finance, Mathematics, Quantitative Finance, Statistics, or a closely related field, and at least four years of full-time experience in an institutional investment environment performing investment risk analysis, performing risk management functions, developing tactical or strategic asset allocation strategies, evaluating current valuations of various assets types, or managing an institutional investment portfolio, and possession of a Financial Risk Manager (FRM) certification or Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation;

OR

graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Finance, Mathematics, Quantitative Finance, Statistics, or equivalent highly quantitative or finance-related field of study, and two years full-time experience in an institutional investment environment performing investment risk analysis, performing risk management functions, developing tactical or strategic asset allocation strategies, evaluating current valuations of various assets types, or managing an institutional investment portfolio.

NOTE:

Positions in this class are exempt from the screening and referral requirements of the Iowa Department of Administrative Services – Human Resources Enterprise. Apply directly to IPERS.

Effective Date: 01/14 SA